(e) Government is not aware of the discussions relating to TAP project held in Islamabad on October 28-29, 2007, However, the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the participating countries is scheduled to be held soon.

Issue of Petroleum Bonds by oil companies

809. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given a go ahead for issuing Petroleum Bonds by oil PSUs to the tune of Rs. 12,000 crores to compensate them for selling fuel below the international prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this Ministry wanting oil bond worth Rs. 24,000 crores; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved that 42.7% of the total under-recoveries of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for the current financial year (2007-08) may be borne by the Government in the form of Oil Bonds, The Quantum of amount will depend upon the price of petoleum products and crude oil in the international market, which vary on a daily basis.

Investment plans of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

810. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) plans to invest US $ 1.5 billion in Vizag petro-chemical plant;

(b) whether HPCL wants to invest an additional Rs. 10,900 crores in refinery expansion at Vizag;

(c) if so, whether HPCL will expand the present pipeline between Vizag and Vijayawada, which passes through villages like Tadipudi;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that pipeline use and expansion is beneficial for villages in East and West Godavari district;

(e) whether HPCL has not honoured its earlier pledges to help villages on the pipeline route; and

(f) the steps proposed to avoid troubling villagers on pipeline route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has undertaken a preliminary feasibility study to set up a Petrochemicals Complex at Visakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh in consortium with a partner, after which, the capacity and costs can be firmed up.

(b) HPCL plans to undertake debottlenecking of units at Visakh Refinery to augment the thruput of the Refinery to 10 MMTPA by the end of the XI Plan as well as increase the refining capacity to 16 MMTPA by the end of the XII Plan.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) The pipeline between Vizag to Vijayawada and beyond upto Ghatkesar near Secunderabad is being utilized for evacuation of MS/HSD/SKO/Naptha from Vizag Refinery. Further, these products are being distributed through tap-off point constructed at Rajamundhry in the District of East and West Godavari.

(e) and (f) There is no such specific commitment made by the HPCL to the villagers. However, the pipeline has been laid in private lands as per provisions of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines Act 1962, by acquiring the Right of Use (RoU) for the land. There is no complaint, on record, with the Company from any of the villages on the pipeline route.

Issues raised by recognized Union of ONGC

811. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recognized Unions in ONGC had served notice under Section 22(1) against the management on 27/29-11-2006;

(b) if so, what were the issues pointed out by these Unions;

(c) how many meetings have been held in between November, 2006 to till date to discuss the demands of the recognized Unions; and

(d) the demands which are yet to be finalized by the management with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The recognized unions in Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) under the banner of All India ONGC Trade Unions Co-ordination Committee had served notice of Direct Action *vide* their letter dated 27-11-2006.

(b) The issues raised by the Unions are as follows:

1. Immediate stoppage of engagement of 'Tenure based' employment in ONGC in violation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated 19th August, 2004, with the recognized unions of ONGG. All the recruitments henceforth in ONGC in the Unionized category should be made on regular basis only in accordance with the provisions of MoU dated 19th August, 2004 on MRPR-80.

2. Existing tenure based employees engaged in the Organization as Field Operators should be regularized from the date of their joining in ONGC.

3. Dependant of Deceased employees (DoD) cases who have been offered employment prior to Composite Social Security Scheme (CSSS) on tenure basis should be regularized from the date of their appointment on regular basis and the remaining DoD's employees who have not been given employment till date should be given regular employment immediately.

4. Regularization of contingent, casual, direct employees and term based workers engaged directly by ONGC.

5. Contractual/Society workers, contingents etc., appointed by ONGC through Contractors should be paid Class-IV basic pay+Dearness allowance (DA) gratuity and other statutory benefits including life insurance cover.